

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
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ACTION DRL-02

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	AMAD-01	A-00
	ACQ-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CTME-00	INL-01	WHA-01	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	FBO-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	OPR-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	USSS-00	IMCC-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/032W				

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P 222345Z JAN 99 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6920
INFO NSC WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ2/SCJ5/POLAD//
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 000607

DEPT FOR ARA AA/S ROMERO, DRL FOR A/S KOH, ARA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/21/09
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, PGOV, KJUS, EAID, PGOV, CO
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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR DELIVERS SEGOVIA MASSACRE LETTER

REFS: (A) STATE 7256, (B) 98 BOGOTA 14181

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CURTIS W. KAMMAN. REASON 1.5(D).

1. (C) SUMMARY. THE AMBASSADOR DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTER FERNANDEZ ON JANUARY 19 THE LETTER CONTAINED REF A ON THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY JUDICIARY'S EXONERATION OF EIGHT OFFICERS FOR ALLEGED COMPLICITY IN THE 1988 SEGOVIA MASSACRE. THE LETTER HAS SERVED TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF COLOMBIA'S DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT LEADERS, WHO APPEARED TO BE PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE OF THE VERDICT. THE GOC IS PREPARING A REPLY. END SUMMARY.

AMBASSADOR CONVEYS CONCERN...

2. (C) PRIOR TO EMBASSY RECEIPT OF THE JANUARY 14 AA/S ROMERO - A/S KOH LETTER (REF A) TO COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GUILLERMO FERNANDEZ DE SOTO, THE AMBASSADOR TOLD FERNANDEZ JANUARY 12 WE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 19 MAY 2004 200400772

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WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MILITARY JUDICIARY'S DECEMBER 22 EXONERATIONS OF EIGHT ARMED FORCES OFFICERS FOR ALLEGED COMPLICITY IN THE 1988 SEGOVIA MASSACRE (REF B). THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE USG WOULD LIKELY SOON COMMUNICATE ITS CONCERN MORE FORMALLY. FERNANDEZ SAID HE HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF THE MILITARY JUDICIARY'S VERDICT.

...AND LETTER

3. (C) DUE TO FERNANDEZ'S ABSENCE FROM COLOMBIA, THE AMBASSADOR WAS NOT ABLE TO ARRANGE DELIVERY OF THE LETTER CONTAINED REF A
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UNTIL JANUARY 19. THE AMBASSADOR MET INFORMALLY WITH FERNANDEZ AFTER PRESIDENT PASTRANA'S NEW YEAR RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS JANUARY 20. FERNANDEZ SAID HE HAD SHOWN THE LETTER TO PASTRANA, WHO HAD REQUESTED THAT ALL RELEVANT FACTS BE GATHERED AND A REPLY BE SUBSEQUENTLY DRAFTED.

CINCSOUTH ALSO RAISED SEGOVIA

4. (C) EARLIER IN THE MONTH, THE AMBASSADOR HAD RAISED THE SEGOVIA DECISION WITH MILITARY FORCES COMMANDER GENERAL FERNANDO TAPIAS. TAPIAS HAD ALSO BEEN UNAWARE OF THE VERDICT, BUT SAID HE WOULD REVIEW THE CASE. CINCSOUTH GENERAL WILHELM RAISED THE SEGOVIA VERDICT IN BOGOTA DURING A JANUARY 18 MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER RODRIGO LLOREDA AND TAPIAS.

COMMENT

5. (C) THE JOINT LETTER BY AA/S ROMERO AND A/S KOH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH DISCUSSIONS OF THE SEGOVIA VERDICT BY GENERAL WILHELM AND THE AMBASSADOR, HAS SERVED TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF COLOMBIA'S DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT ON THIS SIGNIFICANT CASE. SENIOR GOC LEADERSHIP APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE OF THE VERDICT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE GOC'S RESPONSE.

KAMMAN

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